

A FAMOUS INDIAN SCOUT

For Forty Years He Has Served in the Northwest.

HIS HONORABLE RECORD

Difficulties of Placer Mining at Franklin Gulch in Alaska—An Eastern Oregon Man Swallows a Silver Dollar.

A magnificent figure, an intelligent countenance, deep, thoughtful eyes, long black hair and a halting gait. This, says the Pendleton *Times*, describes Donald McKay, the famous Indian scout, who, for 40 years, served the United States faithfully and did valuable service. Probably he is as well known as any man in this section. That paper gives the history of his services as follows:

It was in 1852 when Donald entered the employment of the government as a guide and interpreter. In 1853 he guided an expedition under Lieutenant, afterward General, George B. McClellan into Washington territory. He was then transferred to the Dalles. From there, under Lieutenant Saxton and McPherson, he took an expedition to Fort Benton, on the Missouri river.

The following year, with Major Haller, he went up into the Snake river country to find the perpetrators of a massacre of immigrants on Camas prairie near Fort Hall, Idaho. The next year, 1855, they secured the leaders of the massacre and hung them on the spot where the horrible deed was done. That fall Agent Boland went to Yakima to secure the murderers of two sailors. The Indian, upon learning his mission, shot the agent.

On account of this McKay was ordered to lead a party to that country, not knowing that any fighting would be done. For three days the little company was surrounded by a yelling band of savages. The troops were compelled to leave their train and provisions and attempt to escape from the 1,000 Indians, who threatened to annihilate the whole company. On the way back they separated into two bands, one of the effective soldiers, the other the wounded, with only seven men capable of fighting. The officer in charge caused a fire to be lighted, to show their friends where they were. This attracted the Indians, who came upon them and formed plans to kill them all in the morning. Mr. McKay found a point of timber where they could fortify and then ascertain the plans of the enemy. On his advice the troops turned back on their own trail and thus escaped. All this time he was strongly guarded and watched, for the reason that he was suspected of disloyalty. When he thus safely brought them through, all doubts of his faithfulness vanished and he was henceforth trusted without reserve. For all the years that followed he was active in all the wars, and was an actual necessity to the troops. He has been wounded, and as a result walks with a cane. The northwest country is as familiar to him as the town to a citizen of Pendleton.

A prospector recently returned from the gold diggings in Franklin gulch, on Forty-mile creek, in Alaska, says to a representative of the *Post-Intelligencer* that it is perhaps the richest and certainly the most discouraging placer mining camp on the continent. It is a wild, weird region. The creek is about 200 miles long, and has a fall of 300 feet in 85 miles. A strip 30 feet in width across the gulch constitutes a claim. The difficulties attending mining there are very great. The ground is covered all over with a deposit of frozen mud 25 feet deep, all of which must be removed by picking and shoveling before the gravel can be reached. The gravel, too, is frozen deep, but no great difficulty is experienced in thawing and sluicing that when the water is plentiful, which was not the case this year, the scarcity of water making the season there practically a failure. Even when there is an abundance of water sluicing is seldom possible more than 40 days in the year, so you see the ground must be very rich indeed to make mining there at all profitable. It costs \$600 for an outfit for a year, including provisions, clothing and tools. At the station on the Yukon, at the mouth of Forty-mile creek flour sells for \$80 a barrel, while at the diggings, 35 miles above, it is valued at \$60. Bacon there is counted worth 60 cents a pound; sugar, 40 cents; beans, 35 cents; coffee, 75 cents; tea, \$1.25, and butter, \$1.50. Wages for miners are \$10 per day. The papers have greatly overstated the number of miners working there. There were not more than 125 there at any time during the summer, and a large portion of them are discouraged and would be glad to get out. Some, however, who own claims, seem content to stay from year to year, taking the chances of making big clean-ups when there is plenty of water.

Vancouver, Wash., special to the *Spokane Review*: Wednesday evening Mrs. E. T. White, who had been under circumstances so suspicious that the coroner considered an inquest necessary. Dr. J. Steiner, her attending physician, was requested to attend the inquest, but instead took a train for Portland. The coroner swore out a warrant charging Steiner with malpractice, and an officer went to Portland and arrested him late last night. He was brought to this city and in his preliminary examination this morning was held in \$2,000 for further examination, which he furnished. E. T. White, deceased's husband, was also arrested, charged with being accessory after the fact, and admitted to bail in the sum of \$1,800. Mrs. White was alone when she died, and the prosecution claims to have a very black case against defendants. The victim was the sister of Charles A. Peetrain, a prominent Portland attorney, and of the wife of Judge N. P. Bloomfield, this city.

Says The Dalles *Chronicle*: Sheep dip is a terrible drain upon the farmers of the inland empire which they can in a great measure overcome. Mr. Bonn of this city has set the example of cultivating tobacco for dip purposes, and his eminent success shows what may be accomplished. Besides the prolific growth of tobacco here, we notice that tobacco with leaves 33 inches long and 17 inches wide has been grown this year in Grant county along the John Day river. It was not intended for curing, but for manufacturing sheep dip. If the practice becomes general with sheep owners they will save themselves thousands of dollars.

A peculiar accident occurred a few days ago which the parties immediately concerned will not soon forget, says the *La Grande Chronicle*. It was all on account of a silver dollar which was at that time, and is now, in the possession of Richard Kelly. A number of friends were trying to gain possession of the coin, and in the scuffle which ensued, Mr. Kelly thrust the money into his mouth and immediately afterward—to make assurance doubly sure, perhaps—swallowed it. It lodged in his throat and for a while Mr. Kelly's chance of life looked very slim. However, a physician was immediately summoned, and by the aid of dry wheat bread the obstruction was slowly worked down his throat. Mr. Kelly feels no bad effects at present from this strange addition to the contents of his stomach, and the probabilities are the acids of the system will in time dissolve the metal.

A large portion of the steel rails comprising the cargo of the ship *Aberdeen*, wrecked on the weather beach north of Gray's Harbor four years ago, was recovered before work was stopped two weeks ago. One of the men engaged on the work during the past summer thus tells in the *Press-Times* how it was prosecuted: "A wharf 1,500 feet long and 17 feet wide was built out from high water mark to the wreck, terminating in a Y, the arms 150 feet long and 175 feet apart at the outer extremities. These half surrounded the sunken vessel, which lay in six fathoms of water. Four divers fastened chains to the rails, which were hoisted by engines at the end of the wharf." The value of the recovered cargo is about \$80,000, and \$30,000 worth of rails still remain in the wreck to be taken out next spring.

Although Marion county, in Oregon, is one of the oldest settled sections in the Northwest, the wild animals are by no means exterminated within its limits, and hunters and trappers are often able to turn a penny by collecting the bounty paid on their scalps. The *Salem Statesman* says that the other day a couple of wild cat scalps were brought in from the mountains east of Silverton. And the last scalp before these was that of a black bear. Bear scalps command \$3 each and those of the wild cat \$2.

The little 6-year-old girl who disappeared from her home near Summerville, in Union county, Ore., five weeks ago, is now believed to have been stolen by the Indians. No trace of her has been discovered, although a posse of several hundred citizens immediately organized and thoroughly searched the country in every direction. Public sentiment against the Indians on the Grand Ronde reserve is very strong because of this supposed abduction.

The run of salmon in the lower Columbia has been unusually large this fall and many have been taken. The *Portland Telegram* reports that recently two fishermen engaged in fishing in the Cowlitz river succeeded in capturing 710 salmon in two hours. The total weight of the fish was nearly four tons. This is a big fish story, but the truth of it is vouched for. It was not so bad for two hours' work.

The *East Washingtonian* recalls the fact that Rev. Lemuel H. Wells, who was recently made bishop of the newly created Episcopal diocese, with headquarters at Spokane, preached the first Episcopal sermon ever listened to in that part of Washington. The sermon was delivered 20 years ago in an old schoolhouse that stood on Pataha creek five miles below Pomeroy.

From present indications the *Lardeaux* will prove to be as great a mineral country as the *Slocan* has shown itself. Although the principal discoveries were made too late this season to definitely ascertain their extent and value, it is confidently expected that next spring will show that another extremely rich mineral section has been found.

The *Kootenai Herald* learns that the mail route from Kootenai to Bonner's ferry will be discontinued after next Monday, the mail after that date being sent from Sand Point. This will be a great improvement on the old system, particularly as the mail service will be increased to six times per week.

A hunter from Klickitat county, who went into the wilds of British Columbia last spring armed for bear, has returned home with the hides of 67, the pelts of a number of grizzlies being among them. This species he describes as being far less "gamy" than a cinnamon bear.

Tracklaying on the Great Northern division west of the Cascades has ceased for the present. This delay was caused by the graders, who were unable to keep ahead of the tracklaying crew. It is thought this will last not more than a week, when tracklaying will be resumed.

The Big Bend *Empire* states that settlers along the Columbia in the vicinity of Troy are contemplating putting in a large steam pump for irrigating purposes. The lands thus reclaimed will prove invaluable for fruit growing.

The grade for the electric railroad up Stehakin river is very heavy, being in places 7 and 8 per cent. The line is 23 miles long and ends at a wall of rock 1,000 feet high. It is intended for an outlet to the mines in that region.

A forty-foot whale caused much excitement among the passengers on a sound steamer the other day. Attempts to capture him were fruitless, and when last seen he was making straight for the state capital.

A prospector in Eastern Oregon recently found an opal field which appears to be inexhaustible. Among the specimens which he brought to Pendleton were some beautiful black fire opals. Amethyst and agate have also been found there, and the mine promises to become an important one.

A topographical survey of the entire Snake river valley in Idaho, westward from American Falls, is to be made in the spring. It is estimated that 250,000 acres of splendid land will be covered by the survey.

A large force of men will be put to work on the Kittitas valley canal before long. The canal is to be 82 miles in length and will irrigate 120,000 acres of land.

The shipments of lumber from this state to outside points during the month of October will reach almost 4,500,000 feet. A good showing for one month.—*Spokane Review*.

A salmon cannery on the Rogue river in Southern Oregon does not intend that his establishment shall close for lack of fish, and to prevent this has established three hatcheries on that stream and its tributaries.

The latest find in Cassia county, Idaho, consists of tin, which is said to exist in considerable quantities in that section.

The value of the discovery will not be known before next year.

It is reported that Chinese phenomena are being killed by the hundreds in the Willamette valley. They are very plentiful, although they were introduced but a few years ago.

Splendid specimens of opals from the newly discovered mines on Snake river are on exhibition in Boise. They are worth from \$25 to \$40 per karat.

Box cars are so scarce throughout Eastern Oregon that coal cars are used to carry wheat. Threshing is not yet completed in that section.

California Excursions.

On the 15th of each month the Northern Pacific railroad will sell round trip tickets to California points as follows:

Butte to San Francisco and return, going via Spokane, Tacoma and Portland, returning same route, \$75.

To San Francisco, going via Spokane, Tacoma and Portland, returning via Ogden and Silver Bow, \$85.

To Los Angeles, going via Tacoma and Portland, returning same route, entering San Francisco in one direction, either going or returning, \$89.

To Los Angeles, going via Tacoma and Portland and San Francisco, returning via Sacramento, Ogden and Silver Bow, \$99.50.

Tickets will be limited to 60 days for going passage, with return any time within the final limit of six months. Stop over privileges in each direction; through sleepers from Butte to Portland. Sleeping car reservations and further information can be had by calling at 25 East Broadway, Butte, Mont. W. M. Tuohy, general agent.

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So Charles Dudley Warner happily terms California, and for a winter resort that glorious state is without a peer. The dip, pure air, soft and balmy, is a joy for the strong man and a wonderful strengthener for the weak and suffering. The arrangements for this fall and winter tour, via Union Pacific and Southern Pacific systems, are perfect, the journey being made with the greatest ease and comfort. Excursion tickets on sale the 15th of every month.

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TRAINS ARRIVE AT BUTTE.
No. 7, Foreman Express, brings through passengers from all eastern points, arrives at N. P. depot at 2:10 p.m.

M. U. No. 2, Brines N. P. through sleeper and passenger from all eastern points, arrives at M. U. depot at 12:00 m.

No. 100, Pony Express arrives at N. P. depot at 8:20 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE BUTTE.
No. 8, Foreman Express for Livingston, Miles City, Bismarck, Jamestown, Fargo, Minn., St. Paul, La Crosse, Chicago and all eastern points; leaves N. P. depot at 12:10 p.m.

M. U. No. 3, Mating class connects at Garrison for Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and all coast points; leaves M. U. depot at 2:20 p.m.

M. U. No. 1, For Missoula, Wallace and Helena; leaves M. U. depot at 7:45 a.m.

No. 110, Pony Express leaves N. P. depot at 7:15 a.m.

No. 8, has through sleeper for St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago without change. No. 7 and carry mail daily trains. No. 100 and 110 Pony Express, Mondays, Wednesdays and